



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**

# Police Scotland National Dive School

## Course Directory

# Introduction

---

Police Scotland's National Dive School is based in the town of Greenock which sits on the Firth of Clyde.

This location affords access to numerous dive sites with various bottom types and visibilities. Within a short distance there are shallow, sheltered water locations and deep water sites; both offshore and accessible by land.

These locations are ideal for training and students can be assured that they will be trained in all conditions they are likely to encounter during their careers. Our expert instructors have extensive knowledge and are eager to pass on their expertise providing students with the necessary skills to successfully contribute to police dive teams.

This directory includes details of the courses that Police Scotland's National Dive School can provide, along with guidance linking the courses to the 2014 Police Diving Rules and other relevant legislation.



# Basic Air Diving

---

**LENGTH:** Eight Weeks

**COURSE DETAILS:**

The eight-week basic air diving course follows strict HSE guidelines as to the various types of visibility, bottom, depth and equipment that must be used to successfully gain the approved qualifications.

No previous diving experience is required as the course is designed with a non-diver in mind.

The first week comprises classroom inputs, including illnesses and injuries, general decompression, search patterns and diving physics. Also, in this week there is a 50 metre chamber dive and a day's pool diving.

The following weeks, candidates will use a mixture of SCUBA to a maximum depth of 30 metres, DP1 SSDE and LP SSDE with increasing depths as the weeks progress, culminating in a maximum depth of 50 metres at sea level.

Candidates will have ample opportunity to practice search patterns and become proficient in emergency procedures.

There are two night dives during the course and an exam set by the Health & Safety Executive that requires candidates to achieve an 80 per cent pass mark.

**PREREQUISITES:**

HSE Diving Medical, HSE First Aid at Work

**COURSE GUIDANCE:**

**2014 Police Diving Rules**

12.1 No diver shall dive in a diving project unless he / she:

(a) has an approved qualification which is valid for any activity he / she may reasonably expect to carry out while taking part in the diving project.

(b) has a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive.

**CERTIFICATES:**

HSE SCUBA, HSE Police Only Surface Supply, Oxygen Provider.

# Initial Dive Supervisor

---

**LENGTH:** Three Weeks

**COURSE DETAILS:**

Once a police diver has gained a suitable amount of experience and has the desire to become a dive supervisor then this course is the next step.

Over three weeks candidates will cover two days of classroom theory, followed by 13 days supervising divers in the water.

This is an intensive course and throughout, candidates will experience simulated operational deployments to supervise and manage. As the course progresses, they will be expected to choose the most suitable equipment and search patterns, manage decompression and deliver a safe dive plan.

This course also counts as dive refresher if the candidate dives as well as supervises.

Days one and two consist of classroom inputs including roles and responsibilities, general decompression, risk assessment and search patterns.

Days three to fifteen consist of supervising divers in the water using SCUBA, DP1 SSDE and LP SSDE, selection of suitable search patterns and risk management. As the weeks progress the depth of dives increase, building up to supervising a 50 metre dive.

Day fifteen culminates in a supervisor exam.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Experienced police diver.

**COURSE GUIDANCE:**

**2014 Police Diving Rules**

4.5 Responsibilities- Police Dive Supervisors

1) The Police Diving Supervisor MUST be a qualified police diver with the necessary knowledge and experience in the diving techniques to be used.

2) They should have successfully completed a Police Dive Supervisors' Training Course at a recognised Police Dive Training school.

**CERTIFICATES:**

Police Scotland National Dive School Dive Supervisor.



# Dive Supervisor / Dive Refresher

---

**LENGTH:** Two Weeks

**COURSE DETAILS:**

For qualified dive supervisors/divers this is the opportunity for them to refresh their skills and keep up to date with current diving trends and procedures.

The course consists of a classroom day, followed by eight days of supervising dives. This will include various scenarios and tasks building up to deeper dives in the second week.

This course also counts as dive refresher if the candidate dives as well as supervises.

This course can be tailored to meet the candidates' requirements and their expected day-to-day duties.

Day One – Classroom inputs, including illnesses, injuries, general decompression and a table top 50 metre dive.

Day Two - Eight – Supervising divers/diving under operational conditions using, SCUBA, DP1 SSDE and LP SSDE. There will be a simulated operational deployment each day building up to depth requiring the use of different search patterns and equipment.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Qualified Police Dive Supervisor/Diver, HSE Dive Medical if diving.

**COURSE GUIDANCE:**

**2014 Police Diving Rules**

3.5 Continuous Professional Development of Police Divers.

The following minimum refresher training or examination is mandatory for all qualified police divers:

Police dive supervisors are required to undertake formal supervisor refresher training and assessment at the national Police Diver training provider every five years. This will also qualify as diver competence assessment.

**CERTIFICATES:**

Police Scotland National Dive School Dive Supervisor Refresher.

# Dive Contractor

---

**LENGTH:** Two Days

**COURSE DETAILS:**

The overriding duty of a diving contractor is to ensure that policies and procedures are in place in order that Police Diving is safe.

The Dive Contractor course will equip attendees with the skills and knowledge to carry out their future role.

This course is carried out over two days and is classroom based with a visit to a diving operation.

Topics covered during the two day course will include roles and responsibilities of: the Diving Contractor, Supervisor and Dive Team, planning considerations, formulation of a casualty evacuation plan, the role of the HSE, its reporting process and identification of risks in the workplace.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None.

**COURSE GUIDANCE:**

**2014 Police Diving Rules**

6.1 The Diving Contractor shall ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the diving project is planned, managed and conducted in a manner which protects the health and safety of all persons taking part in that project.

**CERTIFICATES:**

Police Scotland National Dive School Dive Contractor.



# Dive Attendant

---

**LENGTH:** One Week

**COURSE DETAILS:**

This course will enable a non-qualified police diver to competently carry out all the attending duties expected of them on a dive site.

The course consists of a one-day classroom input, covering regulations and approved Codes of Practice, communications and lifeline signals, equipment setup, emergency procedures, diving physics, illnesses and injuries.

The additional four days is practice-led. Throughout this time, attendees will visit various dive sites and be instructed in the use of SCUBA and DP1 surface supply diving equipment.\*

\*For dive teams using LP SDDE this can be included.

It also includes, dressing a diver, establishing and maintaining effective communications, acting as an attendant during emergency procedures, post dive equipment checks, care and storage of equipment.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None.

**COURSE GUIDANCE:**

HSE Approved Code of Practice, Inland and Inshore Diving Projects

81 The diving contractor should be satisfied that the tender is competent. The tender should be familiar with the diving procedures to be used and the contingency and emergency plans for the project.

2014 Police Diving Rules

5.5 Attendants

A Diving attendant MUST either

- a) Be a qualified diver
- b) Or if not a diver, MUST have undergone training that satisfies the Police Dive Contractor and Police Dive Supervisor.

**CERTIFICATES:**

Police Scotland National Dive School Dive Attendant.

# Aptitude / Open Water Assessment

---

## **LENGTH:**

## **COURSE DETAILS:**

Prior to attending a Basic Air Diving course we are able to assess the suitability of prospective police divers by conducting an open water assessment. The assessment will involve two shallow dives using SSDE.

The first dive will be equipment familiarisation whilst carrying out basic tasks including directional voice communications and lifeline signals.

The second dive will consist of candidates being placed on a jackstay with a blacked out mask and expected to carry out a search. During both dives the candidates will be accompanied by an experienced instructor. Prior to attendance, forces will be expected to agree a scoring system which fulfils their requirements.

If your force has several candidates and wishes a smaller financial outlay then we are happy to provide one of our instructional staff to attend at your location to oversee an open water assessment carried out by your own staff.

Our instructor will oversee the open water dive to provide a quality check and comply with the 2014 Police Dive Rules.

## **PREREQUISITES:**

HSE Dive Medical.

## **COURSE GUIDANCE:**

### **2014 Police Diving Rules**

#### **3.4 Testing of Diving Aptitude**

At present, it is not possible to assess a candidate's ability to dive in open water, or using SSDE, unless this is carried out at an HSE approved diving competence assessment centre.

## **CERTIFICATES:**

N/A.





# Wreck Diving

---

**LENGTH:** One Week

**COURSE DETAILS:**

Diving and supervising a search that involves penetrating a wreck can be a daunting prospect for even the most experienced divers and supervisor.

This one week course will show candidates a safe and methodical process to carry out the task and the use of ROVs. The course will consist of some classroom inputs and evening working. All diving will be carried out on LP SSDE.

Day One - Travel, classroom inputs and equipment familiarisation.

Days Two – Four - Diving and supervising from a hard boat. Commencing with wreck familiarisation and building up to wreck penetration.

Day Five - ROV use and travel.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Qualified Police Dive Supervisor/Diver, HSE Dive Medical if diving.

**COURSE GUIDANCE:**

**2014 Police Diving Rules**

6.3 The Diving Contractor shall:

a) ensure that there are sufficient people with suitable competence to carry out safely and without risk to health both the diving project and any action (including the giving of first aid) which may be necessary in the event of a reasonably foreseeable emergency connected with the diving project.

**CERTIFICATES:**

Police Scotland National Dive School Dive Wreck Diving.



# Deep Diving

---

**LENGTH:** Two Weeks

**COURSE DETAILS:**

With dive teams carrying out more mutual aid requests there is an increased possibility of having to dive deeper in unfamiliar water. As such, in addition to the five year refresher training, we are pleased to offer a two week Deep Diving course. During week one candidates will utilise DP1 SSDE and in week two LP SSDE. This course is all about deep diving and will give teams the confidence to be able to dive and supervise operational deployments to a maximum depth of 50m at sea level.

One day classroom inputs covering risk assessment and dive logs, planning and briefing, communications and lifeline signals, emergency procedures, general decompression and diving physics, illnesses and injuries.

Eight days practical. After a day covering emergency procedures we start to build up the depth. Candidates will gradually carry out deeper dives/supervision taking in a range of scenarios.

At the end of week one we expect candidates to have completed dives up to 25m and by the end of Week two to 50m at sea level.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Qualified Police Dive Supervisor/Diver, HSE Dive Medical if diving.

**COURSE GUIDANCE:**

**2014 Police Diving Rules**

3.5 Continuous Professional Development of Police Divers.

Diving contractors need to factor in the ability of their team to perform operations that involve diving to greater depths. The training for this should be carried out at LEAST annually. This will not replace the requirement for a “build-up of depth time” prior to any operational deployment, but will ensure that team competence is maintained in relation to working at depths between 10 and 50m.

**CERTIFICATES:**

Police Scotland National Dive School Deep Diving.



---

### **COURSE DATES:**

Course dates are flexible depending on demand and individual needs and will be published separately.

### **COURSE PRICES:**

Course prices are subject to review in September each year however Police Scotland reserves the right to change the cost of courses at any time. The costs are based on a minimum of for students per course. Course prices will be published separately.

### **BOOKING:**

Please contact Sergeant **S38(1)(b)** to discuss requirements, course availability and up to date prices.

**S38(1)(b)**

Police Scotland National Dive School

**S30(c)**

**S30(c)**

**S30(c)**



